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LATIN AMERICA

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BRITISH CLAIM ON SOUTH THULE ISLAND REJECTED

PA1l0044Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0013 GMT 11 May 78 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May (LATIN)--Argentina has "emphatically" rejected a British protest over scientific activities on South Thule Island and said that the island is "an inalienable part of its national territory." This statement was included in a communique issued tonight by the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

The communique is in reply to reports from London where government and parliamentary figures brought up this dispute which started several months ago.

Thule Island is part of the South Sandwich Island Archipelago, over which Argentina claims sovereignty. It also claims sovereignty over the Falkland and Georgia islands, all of them located close to the Antarctic.

The Argentine communique said that a scientific station, which operated there for 20 years, was reactivated in 1976 and that its personnel are carrying out research activities into various matters in accordance with scientific cooperation agreements. Today's communique revealed the contents of a previous message to Great Britain.

Other diplomatic sources have revealed that this dispute has been discussed in private by the foreign services of the two countries since the summer of 1976, when an Argentine Navy ship carried scientists and other personnel to the island in order to rebuild the abandoned base.

Argentina and Great Britain should, during the coming months, resume talks on the situation of the Falkland and other islands claimed by Argentina.

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES FAVORITISM TOWARD BOLIVIA

PY1l0047Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2145 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 May--Reliable sources in the Foreign Ministry today expressed their surprise at reports from different Chilean news media, some of them newspaper reports, that Argentina has allegedly encouraged Bolivia in its problems with Chile. The sources indicated that our country does not have any intention of encouraging disagreement between Bolivia and Chile. It pointed out that Argentina has acted once again in accordance with its historic tradition: providing support to causes it believes are just, particularly in cases where brother countries are involved. It was emphasized that this is based on an attitude which is not subject to any particular political situation.

UNFINISHED SOCCER WORLD CUP PRESS CENTER BOMBED

PY101833Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1811 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 10 May--A medium-sized bomb exploded at 1700 GMT here today in a basement of the San Martin Theater, where the press center for the soccer World Cup is to be located. According to police reports, the bomb injured two persons. The bomb was placed in a car parked in the basement of the building by unknown persons.

According to police sources, unknown persons took advantage of the heavy traffic of cars and trucks transporting material for the press center and left the vehicle parked.

Policeman Killed

PY102129Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1955 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Text of communique released by the Zone 1 Command of the army on 10 May in Buenos Aires]

[Text] The Zone 1 command reports to the population that at 1355 today police found a bomb inside an abandoned car near the San Martin Theater in this capital. The bomb exploded while the police were trying to disarm it and policeman Hector Roque Rodriguez of the federal police explosive brigade was killed as a result of multiple wounds caused by the explosion. Policeman Raul Angel Russo of the same brigade was also hurt in the explosion.

VIDELA UNCERTAIN ABOUT ATTENDANCE AT UN MEETING

PY091710Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 9 May 78 p 9 PY

[Text] Argentine Ambassador to the United Nations Carlos Ortiz de Rozas said yesterday that the fact that most Latin American heads of state have not confirmed they will attend the United Nations disarmament assembly would probably influence President Videla's decision on whether he will attend the assembly himself.

"I'm sure the president has been analyzing the possibility of speaking at the meeting, as more than 30 heads of state from all parts of the world will be there," Ortiz de Rozas said. "It is the first of this type to be attended by so many chiefs of state and governments; there has never been one like it in history."

However, Ortiz de Rozas pointed out that up to now only one Latin American president, President Omar Torrijos of Panama, had confirmed he would attend the assembly.

"The president has all the data on his desk," Ortiz de Rozas said. "It's his decision, and I don't know what it will be."

EEC ARGICULTURE POLICY CALLED UNFAVORABLE TO ARGENTINA

PY081945Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1040 GMT 8 May PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 May--Juan Esteban Dumas, under secretary for international economic negotiations, on his return from Europe said that the EEC will not change its present agricultural policy. Dumas added that EEC policy "does not favor our exports to Europe and right now there are no prospects that this policy will change. He pointed out that it will be necessary to "take under consideration this fact" in determining Argentine foreign policy. Regarding the new wheat agreement, Dumas, who acted as agriculture adviser to the Argentine mission to EEC, said that progress has been made in harmonizing two approaches, one based on flexible agreements and the other based on maximum and minimum fixed prices.

ADRIAZOLA DECRIES PINOCHET'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ZONE

PY101816 Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 10 May--Bolivian Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola has termed as "deplorable" the statements by Chilean President Augusto Pinochet in which the latter proposed to Bolivia and Peru the establishment of an international zone in the Arica region. He said: "It is deplorable that this kind of statement should appear now." He added: "In its peace formula, the Bolivian Government had proposed the establishment of a development zone in the border region, and that proposal had been submitted to Chile and Peru."

Adriazola concluded by stating that "there is no possibility whatever of any agreement with Chile, unless it is based on a specific and just solution of our maritime problem."

FUDP MANIFESTO STRESSES FRONT'S SOLIDARITY

PY091414Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[Text] The Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] has stated that it is the only nationalist, democratic and revolutionary solution to the current situation, which is why it cannot play dilatory games, hold academic discussions, or help undermine the upward progress of the only candidate who has total support. The FUDP indicated that this candidate is Hernan Siles Zuazo and repudiated the government campaign aimed at distorting his image of inspirer, unifier and mover of the Bolivian people.

In a manifesto just issued, the FUDP confirmed having the support of the Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement and stated that the FUDP's unity will not fall apart at the first ideological debate, because the parties which make up this front did not get together merely because they had no other choice.

The manifesto also stated that the unity of the FUDP is based on political and ideological agreements as well as fraternal organizational solidarity. The FUDP concludes by stating that it is open for dialog but does not wish to create any false expectations. Those who wish to join in a coherent and positive manner are welcome to do so, and those who turn unity into an unsolvable conflict should leave the FUDP alone.

This manifesto, which was released a few moments ago, is signed by Abel Ayoroa Argandona for the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left, Oscar Eid Franco for the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, (Carlos Ovid) for the Bolivian Communist Party, (Benedicto Delgadillo) for the Bolivian Socialist Party, Luis Sandoval Moron for the Movement of the National Left, and an illegible signature of the representative of the Tupac Katari Revolutionary Movement.

FRI CITES CONDITIONS FOR TALKS WITH FUDP

PY100327Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[Text] The Revolutionary Front of the Left [FRI], which is made up of four opposition parties, has stated its willingness to hold talks with the Democratic and Popular Unity Front [FUDP] on a front-to-front basis only.

In a statement to the local press, FRI Secretary General (Mario Carrasco) stated that FUDP's proposal to hold talks with Juan Lechin Oquendo, leader of the Revolutionary Party of the National Left [PRIN] and the Bolivian Workers Revolutionary Party [PRTE], is not acceptable to the FRI. He explained that this proposal is aimed at dividing the left and is clearly an FUDP attempt to interfere in FRI affairs.

The secretary general of the FRI later stated that relations between Siles Zuazo's FUDP and the FRI had deteriorated. "These relations had cooled after a statement by the official representative of the FUDP to our front, declaring that the FUDP had decided that it would not deal with the ultraleft and would talk directly with the PRIN and PRTE."

So far, Siles Zuazo's FUDP and the FRI have held only one meeting, shortly before the 1 May demonstrations. This meeting served to outline the issues which would be discussed at subsequent meetings which did not take place for still unknown reasons.

(Mario Carrasco) stated: We are open to dialog but on a front-to-front basis only.

SOCIALIST PARTY HOLDS SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS

PY092007Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 29 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] The Second National Congress of the Socialist Party, headed by Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, expelled in disgrace active members Guillermo Aponte Burela, Orlando Capriles Villazon, Benedicto Delgadillo and Mery Monje.

The differences between Guiroga and Aponte, mainly the result of their dispute for party leadership, go back several years to before they were in exile.

The congress reasserted "its decision not to join any alliance with rightists and accomplices of dictatorship, thus observing the principles and statutes of the party."

Trying to preserve the unity of the left in the face of a probable division at voting time, the party will strengthen its effort.

Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz was confirmed as first executive secretary of the Socialist Party.

They condemned the police intervention at San Andres University, supporting the students' struggle for reestablishment of university autonomy.

PRESENCIA LAMENTS PROLIFERATION OF PARTIES

PY092324Y La Paz PRESENCIA 29 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Editorial: "Too Many Parties"]

[Excerpts] The parties and political groups which have registered at the electoral court in order to participate in the coming elections are nearing 50.

This high number could be the symptom of many situations and could have several explanations, from which each citizen can choose the one that seems to him most plausible.

We are facing dispersion that is dangerous for the Bolivian democratic future. If this dispersion is reflected even partially in a fragmentation of the vote, we will not be able to build the firm and solid government that we need. There will be a continued forming and dissolution of alliances, frequent cabinet crises, and, therefore, a lack of continuity in the action of the government. Personal interests of some leaders will prevail over ideological interests and, particularly, over the interests of the fatherland.

To avoid this danger which may ruin all our chances of achieving democracy, we believe that this already accomplished process of dispersion must be followed by another process of reunification, of coalitions, on the basis of some common dogmatic points and similar plans of action. We are, of course, discarding alliances which seek only a way out or the sharing of power, because they are destructive and save nothing.

As there are no rightist parties--at least declared--the gap which goes from center to extreme left is still to be covered. Thinking of five or six large groups, as a maximum, does not seem to be a very limited number to cover the whole political spectrum. We do not believe that a large number is needed to cover all the tones from soft pink to flaming red.

POSSIBLE FUTURE NEED TO IMPORT OIL REPORTED

PY100334Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[Excerpts] Sources in the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] have expressed concern over the fact that current production of crude oil is barely 32,000 barrels per day, while only 4 years ago it was 42,000 barrels per day.

The depletion of currently exploited deposits and the lack of new discoveries may force Bolivia to become an oil importer within the next 5 years. However, the YPFB expressed confidence in finding new oil deposits in the country.

According to experts, Bolivia, which has always been an exporter of oil--even though on a small scale--is currently producing barely enough to cover its own demands.

BRIEFS

AIRBASE IMPROVEMENTS--La Paz, 3 May--The Bolivian Air Force [FAB] will improve its most important airbase located at El Alto, 15 km from La Paz. This was stated by FAB Commander Jose Antonio Sempertegui after inspecting the base. Besides FAB technical institutions, this base includes the air fighter group with subsonic interception bombers; the air transportation group with C-130 Hercules large-capacity units; and covering squadrons. Helicopters for logistical support have recently been incorporated at El Alto base. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1456 GMT 3 May 78 PY]

PORTELLA TO PRESENT POLITICAL REFORM PLAN TO GUIMARAES

PY102037Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 May 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpts] Senate President Petronio Portella will try to meet with MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] President Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes either today or tomorrow to present to him the new political reform plan and to discuss it with him.

The proposals which Portella will present to Guimaraes, and which will be prepared in the form of three to seven constitutional amendments to be submitted to Congress by the executive branch this month, include the following:

1. Restitution of habeas corpus, except for terrorists (the legal procedures under this amendment have not yet been defined).

2. Reinstatement of magistrate privileges (job security, lifetime tenure and guaranteed salary).

3. Cancellation of elective mandates by court action. The person charged by the government will automatically lose his prerogatives but will recover them if found not guilty.

4. The state of exception (similar to a state of seige) to be decreed for the whole nation or parts of it by the executive branch without approval of Congress, which will remain in session.

Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes will also be informed about procedures which will allow the government to adopt measures affecting the citizenry by simply informing Congress that such procedures will be implemented. No consensus, however, has been reached as to what these procedures will be, but they will give the executive branch full powers patterned after those it exercised under the state of seige. This latter instrument is now available to the executive branch to cope "with serious disturbances of the public order or threats of disorder." The state of siege authorizes the government to adopt coercive measures, such as "restricting residence to a given site, suspension of the right to hold meetings, mail and press censorship, etc."

Senator Portella will meet with Deputy Guimaraes after having worked on this reform plan since the middle of last year and after having made some progress with it. Last week Portella met with President Geisel to report to him on the information he had gathered in consultations with representatives of Brazilian society and suggested to the president some points which may be included in the reform plan to allow more political relaxation.

President Geisel liked the suggestions and said that they were "particularly cautious." General Figueiredo, who met with Portella last week, agreed with the proposals, which he termed "excellent."

ARENA OFFICIAL DENIES PLANS TO DISBAND PARTIES

PY110052Y Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 May 78 p 6 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo--"National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] and the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB] will not be disbanded either before or after the 15 November elections. What may happen after the elections is a relaxation of the law on the creation of new parties."

This categorical statement was made yesterday to the press by Sao Paulo ARENA President Claudio Lembo, whom Sao Paulo political circles believe to be well informed on national politics.

Lembo made this statement in order to refute reports published yesterday that President Geisel has already been convinced by his aides that the dual party system has served its purpose and that he was about to agree to disband both ARENA and the MDB.

According to Claudio Lembo, the politicians do not want the dissolution of the two current parties but the right to create others. However he indicated that he does not believe this could happen before 15 November. He explained this in the following manner:

"Haste is an evil which has plagued Brazilian politics through the ages. It is high time to use some commonsense and allow future political parties to emerge naturally from society."

Lembo believes that the relaxation of the law which controls the creation of new parties, together with a temporary permit to break the principle of party loyalty, may eventually "allow politicians to join other parties whose ideology accords with their own way of thinking."

ARENA's candidate for governor of Sao Paulo State, Laudo Natel, is still holding daily meetings with ARENA's regional president at the headquarters of the state trade federation to help prepare party slates for the 15 November elections.

DISSIDENT POLITICAL MOVEMENT WITHIN ARMY EXAMINED

PY1022254Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1942 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[By Francois Campredon]

[Text] Sao Paulo, 9 May--Observers indicated here today that a movement of discontent against the regime of Gen Ernesto Geisel has taken shape within the heart of the Brazilian Army itself.

Capt Itamar Perenha, of the 17th Infantry Battalion [Batallon de Cazadores], based in Matto Grosso, was sentenced on Monday to 20 days' solitary confinement for having publicly criticized the regime.

This movement, which is not yet organized, includes the military personnel who favor full and immediate democracy for the country and also certain sectors of the army which are unhappy with the authoritarian process of naming Gen Joao Baptista de Figueriredo as official candidate for the presidency.

The movement took the initiative by submitting the name of an opposition military candidate to the restricted electoral college, which must meet on 15 October 1978 in order to elect the future chief of state.

These remarks were made in Sao Paulo at the end of last week to a small number of reporters by one of the principal coordinators of this dissident movement.

He is a high-ranking army officer on active duty who wishes to remain anonymous in view of the army's disciplinary rules.

"Eighty percent of the high-ranking officers whom we have sounded out share our concern and favor the proclamation of an opposition military candidate. We have consulted half the members of the high command and we found the same percentage of supporters," he asserted.

The high-ranking officer rejected the idea of an "armed rebellion" against the regime because "in that event the situation would become uncontrollable. Therefore, we believe that it is necessary to act legally," he added.

On the other hand, he confirmed that negotiations are underway for the legal opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB], to serve as the springboard for proclaiming the military candidate.

"ARENA [National Renewal Alliance] (the official party) already has its candidate while the MDB has not yet named one. We have proposed this candidate to them because they are the only legal channel we have for our candidate."

At this time it is known that the candidate is a 3-star general on active duty. The spokesman refused to reveal his identity.

It is the belief of the spokesman that with the MDB votes plus those of certain disconted ARENA sectors there may be a possibility that the opposition candidate will obtain a majority of votes.

According to this officer, President Geisel's position of power within the army is on the wane.

Regarding this matter, he mentioned two recent documents which were addressed to the chief of state by certain dissatisfied sectors of the army, indicating that one of the documents came from the airborne troops and that it was signed.

"None of those officers has been touched," he added.

He then indicated that last March, Lt Col Tarcisio Nunes Ferreira, commander of an armored infantry battalion based in Parana State, publicly criticized the regime on two occasions and was simply subjected to a month's arrest according to regulations.

In an interview published this week in the Sao Paulo weekly MOVIMIENTO, Capt Itamar Perenha announced his candidacy in the coming legislative elections as the MDB deputy.

He said: "The principal motive for my political opposition is my belief in the democratic system and I believe that the price paid for state security cannot be exchanged for the insecurity of the population.

"The period of assigned mandates without consulting the people must come to an end in order to stop the undesirable permanence in power of oligarchic groups," asserted Perenha in that interview.

The officer, who acknowledged having violated army regulations in authorizing the publication of that interview, believes that the Brazilian people are disposed toward accepting the convening of a constituent assembly "in order to get the country out of its stagnant state."

While the discontent of certain military officers began to emerge outside the garrisons, Army Minister Gen Fernando Bethlem asserted that the Brazilian Army continues to be united in the struggle for democracy.

"The Brazilian Army continues to calmly carry out its constitutional mission," he remarked on Monday.

Adm Gualter de Magalhaes, navy chief of staff, also asserted on Monday that: "Civilians and military continue to be united, ready to reject the aggression of agents of international communism."

MDB HOLDING TALKS IN ARMY CIRCLES ON CANDIDATE

PY100355Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 May 78 p 5 PY

[Text] Senator Lazaro Barbosa, Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB]--Goias State, stated yesterday in Cuiaba, although without revealing names, that the opposition has been holding talks with high-ranking officers of the army regarding the possible nomination of an MDB-backed military candidate for the presidency of the republic. Barbosa added that nominating a military candidate cannot be a "privilege" of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA], "since the MDB has never questioned the role of the armed forces."

After stating that the proper course now is not to nominate a dark horse [anticandidato] but a candidate who would be able to run against Figueiredo on an equal footing, Barbosa said that the MDB--aware of national dissatisfaction--feels that it now has a chance to seize power, adding that "it will obviously not relinquish this chance."

Barbosa added that should the MDB seize power, it will immediately implement the political-institutional reforms pursuant to its platform.

Barbosa stated that thus far the opposition has not made any commitment to the candidacy of Senator Magalhaes Pinto but did not discard the possibility of MDB endorsement of Magalhaes' candidacy. He noted, however, that this endorsement will require a broad consultation with MDB cadres to determine whether it is feasible, especially from the legal standpoint.

Questioned in Brasilia on reports that he has been conducting negotiations in political and military sectors to nominate an MDB-backed military candidate for the presidency, Senator Paulo Brossard [MDB leader in the Senate] wryly commented: "That is a military secret." He confirmed that he had been with Col Tarcisio Ferreira a few days ago in Curitiba's airport but did not reveal the subject of their talks.

LETTERS FROM CARTER REFLECT IMPROVED RELATIONS

PY100351Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 May 78 p 7 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--President Jimmy Carter has sent a letter to President Ernesto Geisel thanking him for the Brazilian Government's support for the new Panama Canal treaty.

This is the second letter in less than a week which President Carter has sent to the Brazilian Government. In the first letter, released last Friday and addressed to Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, the U.S. President conveyed his appreciation for the kindness expressed toward him during his stay in Brasilia in March, pointing out the importance of the talks he held at that time with Brazilian officials.

The U.S.-Brazilian trade subcommission held its initial meeting in Itamaraty yesterday. This meeting was already included in the memorandum of understandings but was reactivated and agreed upon during Carter's visit.

According to diplomatic observers, Carter's letters, in addition to the meeting which is taking place in Brasilia, show that relations between Brazil and the United States are recovering from the deterioration which characterized their relations just before Carter's visit to Brasilia.

IMPORTANCE OF NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS TO FRG NOTED

PY091802Y Florianopolis Radio Diario da Manha in Portuguese 1515 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[Undated editorial from Sao Paulo newspaper FOLHA DA MANHA]

[Text] The construction of the Angra I nuclear plant places Brazil in line with other countries possessing nuclear technology. While the nuclear agreement signed with the FRG in 1975--although criticized by ecologists and other scientists--gives us that privilege and insures the supply of electrical power in the coming decades, the truth is that the construction of our nuclear plants represents very good business for the Germans.

A survey made by the German economic research institute disclosed that the construction of a nuclear plant costing DM1.1 million provided employment in 1976 for about 39,000 people: 8,400 jobs in manufacturing machinery and steel; 3,400 jobs in civil construction; 2,600 in electronics; 2,500 in crafts and trades; 1,200 in chemistry and earthmoving [quimica e movimentacao de terra]; 1,100 in steel and ironmaking; 4,400 in services; 4,000 in commercial activities; 2,100 in transport; 1,600 in banks and insurance; 4,000 in other industries; and 3,700 in miscellaneous sectors.

But these figures do not tell the whole story because the effects of such investment, meaning the DM1.1 million, in the field of employment, demand and production will be felt for more than just a year. Thus that investment in the nuclear sector in 1977, according to a German economist, provided jobs for 49,000 people. That is a lot of jobs for a country which by the middle of 1977 had 1 million unemployed, and in which the situation at that time became so serious that 14,000 workers from more than 60 construction firms, nuclear plants and electricity supply companies staged a demonstration in Bonn in favor of nuclear plant construction.

ITAMARATY PERSONNEL INCREASE GEARED TOWARD AFRICA

PY090349Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 May 78 p 6 PY

[By Carlos Conde]

[Excerpts] Brazil may open embassies in Zambia and Cameroon or perhaps, following different motives, in Tanzania and in Sao Tome and Principe, islands of Portuguese origin. An embassy may be established in Barbados in the Caribbean area. The increase of personnel in Itamaraty, provided for in a law signed by President Geisel 20 days ago, will be assigned primarily to the Americas area of the Foreign Ministry in Brasilia, which will receive 60 percent of the newly promoted and hired people; 20 percent will be assigned to Europe and the remaining 20 percent to Africa.

In relative terms, Africa will be the area which will benefit the most from this reform of Itamaraty, as is appropriate for the policy of closer contacts with that continent which has been emphasized since 1974. Therefore, the 20 percent of newly promoted and hired personnel who will be devoted to Europe and the same percentage to be assigned to Africa and Asia should not be analyzed in terms of significance in absolute numbers.

Brazil maintains embassies throughout Europe, with the exception of Dublin, while in Africa the number of Brazilian embassies is rather small. Therefore, while in Europe only the number of diplomats for existing embassies will be increased, new embassies will be created in Africa and embassies already present there will receive reinforcements.

The creation of an embassy in Zambia or Tanzania would result from Brazil's need to have a more active presence in that area of the African Continent, where not only the future of the continent but important strategic interests in the East-West confrontation are at stake. The creation of an embassy in Sao Tome and Principe would be a response to the need for a more uniform distribution of diplomatic posts in the African area closest to Brazil and away from the focus of conflicts.

Europe will also be given importance in the Itamaraty reform involving personnel increases. Our foreign policy reflects the changing influence of the European Continent in relation to its past position, but does not substantially reduce its importance. Great Britain no longer is the colonizing empire with warships sowing fear all over the world. This role has been transferred to the United States, Great Britain's former colony. Europe maintains its relative importance as a key area in which either U.S.-Soviet detente will take root or in which the Washington-Moscow confrontation will replace words with weapons.

The small number of personnel in important European embassies proves that the reform of Itamaraty, which has been approved in order to keep up with Brazil's growing international status, has not been devised simply to indulge in luxury or to please personal friends.

Itamaraty does not accept the criticism that the reform should have preceded the adoption of the new foreign policy. According to some criticisms, Itamaraty should have improved its structure first and then launched its diplomatic thrust, which had been dubbed as "ecumenical pragmatism." The inversion of these two moves is considered a mistake.

Itamaraty does not agree with that way of perceiving this, and recalls that in a country like Brazil--in which problems always are larger than the resources to cope with them--a need is only recognized after proving that it does exist in practice. Itamaraty insists that it must first impose its policy and gather the first results of that policy, and only then insist on satisfying the needs created by that policy. The reform would then come, as it did, as the recognition of an absolute priority. Good naturedly, a diplomat commented: "Requesting from the government an increase of personnel to implement a policy in the future for a country with our problems would have meant to discard both the new foreign policy and the needed reform. This reform would not have passed through the door of the Public Service Administrative Department.

OIL IMPORTS FROM LIBYA MAY INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY

PY101858Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 9 May 78 p 24 PY

[Text] Brasilia--Libya may supply Brazil with up to 50,000 barrels of oil per day. According to Mines and Energy Ministry technicians, payment conditions are excellent: 70 percent will be paid within 60 days, and the remaining 30 percent will be financed for PETROBRAS by the Bank of Brazil.

The offer was made to Minister Shigeaki Ueki by 'Abdullah Saudi, director general of the Libyan Arab Bank. After the meeting Minister Ueki recommended that the understanding be implemented by PETROBRAS in Rio de Janeiro today.

During the meeting with PETROBRAS leaders, transportation of the product will be discussed because according to technicians transportation will increase the cost of the product.

The high-quality Libyan oil was offered at $13.50 per barrel. During the meeting between Minister Ueki and 'Abdullah Saudi, the possibility of Brazil's supplying any product in exchange was not discussed.

The amount of Libyan oil available to Brazil represents a substantial increase in the imports from Libya, which presently do not reach 15,000 barrels per day. In 1977 imports totaled 10.18 million barrels, worth $137,497 million.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL DROUGHT REPORT 'DISCOURAGING'

PY051445Y Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 4 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] The Rio Grande do Sul State committee for civil defense is preparing a report on the drought, which will be submitted tomorrow to the [state] interior minister.

Discouraging reports are being received from the interior of the state. The upper Uruguay region is also facing serious problems stemming from the shortage of water, since the recent rains were inadequate.

According to the president of the union of rural workers of Erechim, only pastures and a few crops benefited from the recent rains, adding that there was no change in the level of the rivers. He noted that rains will no longer benefit some crops which have been completely lost.

SIMONSEN BLAMES HIGHER INFLATION RATE ON DROUGHT

PY051634Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 5 May 78 PY

[Text] The rate of inflation in April was 3.4 percent, 10 percent higher than in March. Finance Minister Henrique Simonsen views this April rate as somewhat high and feels that it resulted from the drought affecting agricultural production. In his opinion, the inflation rate over the first 4-month period without the drought would have been 10.3 percent instead of the 13.3 percent that was recorded. The minister noted that the impact of the drought has already been felt and, therefore, the inflation rate should now come down.

BRIEFS

WAREHOUSE FOR BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS--Paris, 3 May--Spokesmen for the Brazilian warehouses and trade company, COBEC-France, stated that Brazil will build a storage platform in the French port of Le Havre for the distribution of Brazilian products in France and Europe. It was reported that the platform will have facilities for the manufacturing or modification of products according to the needs of each country and that a considerable amount of original Brazilian raw materials will be stored. The construction of the storage platform was included in the joint French-Brazilian declaration of April 1976, when President Ernesto Geisel made an official visit to France. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1309 GMT 3 May 78 PY]

PRESIDENT PINOCHET INTERVIEWED BY PANAMANIAN TELEVISION

PA102026Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0230 GMT 10 May 78 PA

["Enfoques" program with Mario Velasquez interviewing President Pinochet at Diego Portales Building in Santiago, Chile, on 4 May--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, regarding the political plan for Chile, there has been talk of institutionalizing the system. Does such institutionalization include an eventual role for political parties?

[Answer] [Words indistinct] (?aspects), gentleman. We feel that the political parties have already become obsolete. There may be movements to serve as vehicles to channel information to the public. However, the political parties [words indistinct] that nominate candidates to the presidency or to congress or to 500 government posts have become obsolete with the passage of time. Consequently, under this new institutional system, we do not contemplate political parties except as channels for public opinion. In turn, we channel everything involving opinion or political orientation, with capital letters, through the system of neighborhood and municipal boards.

The process has to be understood. If we do not look at the process as a whole we may become confused. The object of the new institutional system is to achieve a momentous change in the country's life, that is, very profound changes, to establish a new type of democracy. We feel that democracy is virtually obsolete, that it has been superseded. I say this because traditional democracy permitted Marxist infiltration and its own destruction. You will observe that all democratic systems are currently plagued by agitation, terrorism and violence and that, in turn, there are other countries, the Marxist countries, which have no problems.

This means that democracy must adopt a new attitude at this moment in order to confront Marxism. Now then, traditional democracy also considers itself to [word indistinct] for the mere fact of having a majority, which may be quite relative--it may be one-hundredth of 1 percent--and which it may lose the following day, and consequently it is indeed representation. Something like this is also possible.

For this reason, we have thought that this new Chilean fundamental charter must establish a democratic system with very special characteristics, a strong democratic system capable of defending itself from Marxism.

[Question] Mr President, in regard to this new democratic system to which you refer, does the Chilean Government already have an ideological conception of this new type of democracy?

[Answer] The new democracy would be strong, protected, technically knowledgeable. In other words, the people who are going to initiate the government must have certain technical skills. We cannot think of getting people who are not in a position to tackle government work. There are many subjects, too many to enumerate, and perhaps it would be a bit premature to do so.

[Question] Regarding political matters, I would like to ask you for the Chilean Government's opinion on the proposal of a certain opposition sector which has asked for a caretaker government with participation by the armed forces.

[Answer] It seems that the opposition has not understood what happened on 11 September. The civilian government almost led the country to chaos, to ruin, to moral, political, economic and overall chaos. It was necessary for the military government to intervene. Now that things are all right and progress is being made and it can be seen that a recovery is taking place, do they want to go back to the former situation again by wreaking havoc? No. The military government is perfectly clear about the route it is going to follow, how far it is going to go and what it will do to save the country [corrects himself] the government--what steps will be taken, what advances will be made and what goals will be reached. Therefore, participation [words indistinct] in order to destroy what is being accomplished.

[Question] Mr President, concerning economic matters and your administration's accomplishments in the past 4 and 1/2 years, what are your chief accomplishments and your greatest satisfaction as a government leader?

[Answer] We became convinced after 11 September that the country's Achilles heel is the economy. This country was left with less than $1 million deposited in the Central Bank, with a debt that had grown by $1.5 billion, with the Central Bank's gold reserve ready to be shipped abroad. This would have been the ruin of the century.

We had to avoid that ruin, and by doing so we also escaped pressure from other countries which were our creditors and which, if we had problems in paying our debts, logically [words indistinct] very, very serious situations. Therefore, our problem was how to recover from economic chaos. I began an economic program which was very difficult because there was an economic recession. I will tell you that Chile's national budget reported deficits of 55 percent every year. Therefore, we were used to spending over twice what we had. That is why it was necessary to cut spending. This allowed us to make an economic achievement which I think was a miracle because, despite the efforts of all, without exception--of course, those who have less suffer more--but all without exception had to contribute to this economic recovery. [sentence as heard] [words indistinct] We have not had such a low inflation rate in 11 years. Our currency is becoming stronger every day. We have paid our debts. Our budgets are balanced. Our balance of payments is all right. In other words, the economic situation is such that it is one of the things that most impresses politicians nowadays, because they realize that we have accomplished something that they never did. Many advances have also been made in the social sector as far as social works are concerned. We spend $1.2 billion of the $2.6 [billion] national budget on social concerns, that is, health, education and housing. What else [can I say]? Therefore, in this sense I can say that economically speaking [words indistinct] we have made great progress. Politically speaking, we are starting a process that will create new institutions.

[Question] I have a question concerning what you just said when you referred to the fact that those who have less sometimes suffer more. One of the criticisms made about the Chilean Government's economic program is that the financing of the country's economic development has fallen on the shoulders of the working class, the lower-income bracket. Do you have any comments to make in this regard?

[Answer] I would say that everybody's budget has been affected. There are people who once had a lot of money but now they have to restrain themselves. There are people who had big businesses but they have had to restrain themselves. Of course, those who have more can more readily tackle a difficult problem while those who have meager means cannot do so as readily. They have to handle the problem within their means. Their sacrifice is bigger. In general, all have suffered the effects of this economic situation. But now a period of recovery has come. Those who have more as well as the workers are recovering. The workers are now experiencing a period of recovery.

[Question] Mr President, concerning Chile's international relations, I would like to ask you specifically about relations with the United States. It seems to me as a newsman and observer of these things that in recent months there has been a broadening [crecimiento] in U.S. policy toward Chile, notably with regard to U.S. support for a UN resolution criticizing the human rights picture in Chile. What could you say in this regard, Mr President?

[Answer] We agree with President Carter's concern over human rights but he should not just look at Chile. There are other countries at which he can look.

[Question] Do you believe that President Carter's human rights policy, which is a moral concept extended into the field of international policy, in some ways involves a certain amount of meddling in the domestic affairs of other countries?

[Answer] Definitely, but I must also say the following: The United States should not look at human rights in only one country; it must be an overall thing. And just as it has [words indistinct] for one, it should apply it equally to all. Then no one would feel uncomfortable.

[Question] Mr President, regarding human rights here, do you feel that they are completely in effect or do you think that the regime has entered a stage in which human rights are becoming increasingly more respected and more fully in effect?

[Answer] Sir, I think that human rights are upheld in Chile. Of course, we do not allow events that have taken place in other countries to happen here. Somebody else might say that human rights also include protecting the citizens and not allowing a group of terrorists to act and cause veritable chaos, as in some countries. That is why it is better to protect the majority rather than the minority.

[Question] Mr President, also within the context of international relations, it is noteworthy that Chile does not have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Not only that, but the relations that do exist are tense. However, I understand that Chile has good relations with the PRC, which also has a communist government. How do you explain this situation of cordial relations with one major communist power and not with the other?

[Answer] Look, we do not deal with countries which intervene in our domestic policy. The PRC has not intervened in our domestic policy, but the Soviet Union has. That makes a difference.

[Question] As regards Latin America, Mr President, what is your opinion of the border problem with Argentina, which has had a great impact on the hemisphere and is cause for concern among all Latin Americans?

[Answer] Well, that process is now in full swing. We reached an agreement with President Videla concerning the creation of two commissions. The first commission, in a climate of harmony, has concluded preparations for the second commission to develop a second work period. [words indistinct] I see all this within an increasingly calm climate.

[Question] Are you not concerned that this problem might create a crisis in relations with Argentina?

[Answer] I think that a greater number of things unite us with Argentina than separate us. Therefore, this temporary problem will be overcome.

[Question] [illegible] carried many reports on Chile. Chile is always in [illegible] on the differences that currently exist among [illegible] members of the military junta, particularly in connection with the problem of institutionality and political management of the government.

[Answer] Differences of opinion may exist, but at present and according to my talks with the members of my government, with the junta members, they agree with the constitutional process we have drafted. If anybody originally disagreed, he now agrees. [Words indistinct] has brought us a greater unity, for when things are cleared up, greater unity results.

[Question] Mr President, as regards Latin America's economic integration efforts, how does Chile view its participation in these efforts at the hemispheric, regional and subregional level?

[Answer] We agree with all that has been done in Latin America in the economic, political and social areas. Furthermore, we have promoted many things. The only thing we do not want to see is the creation of any type of economic hindrance which might limit a country's free development of the economic exchange that usually takes place among nations.

[Question] Mr President, what was your reaction to the U.S. Senate's ratification of the Panama Canal treaties?

[Answer] It was highly satisfactory for me because I was one of those who accepted the invitation to Washington last year; I was present when the treaty was signed.

[Question] What significance do you attach to this new level of relations between Panama and the United States? Do you think it will have any effect on Washington's relations with the rest of Latin America?

[Answer] The United States has exhibited a spirit of good will toward Panama and Panama has reciprocated. Thus, a good understanding has been reached. I think this understanding which the United States has shown toward Panama could also be extended toward the other Latin American countries.

[Question] Mr President, returning to the topic of politics, a topic which is of so much interest, you referred to the concept of a new democracy but also mentioned that parties as such have been removed as participants in this democracy. My question now is: Are freedom, the exercise of citizens' rights and individual guarantees included in this system of institutionality?

[Answer] Yes, sir. We grant freedom but under the condition that nobody may create situations which might lead to domestic problems. This is in exchange for total freedom. In other words, this system allows one to live in a democracy but under a strong government. I think it is better to live in a democracy than to live under a democratic government but with fear.

[Question] Mr President, how have the Chilean people and exiles reacted to the general amnesty decreed by your government?

[Answer] There have been very favorable reactions. For instance I have noticed that the Catholic Church has made some very interesting statements. There have been favorable opinions. Logically, there are some people who always find something wrong.

[Question] Mr President, as regards the investigation currently underway in the United States in connection with Orlando Letelier's death, is Chile cooperating in it? Is it in any way involved in this process?

[Answer] Chile has offered its cooperation and has shown it by allowing a gentleman, District Attorney Mr Propper, to come here. We held talks; we understood each other. He held talks with Chilean justice authorities and saw what they had been doing. We have given our cooperation in every instance where we have been asked to cooperate; there is nothing we have not done. The ironic thing is that this is a problem of justice, not a political problem, so let it not be called otherwise.

[Question] Mr President, what is your opinion on the future of democracy and freedom in Latin America as the beliefs and the reality of our peoples, who have gone through so many stages and have lived under so many different systems of government? What is your opinion of the future of freedom within the framework of these Latin American realities?

[Answer] I think that our peoples will enjoy freedom. But they are also convinced of the need to have a strong government that will protect them from communist actions.

[Question] Mr President, within this concept of a strong government or authoritarian government, is there some ideological concept that might be used to compare the Chilean Government with some other Latin American or European regime?

[Answer] No. In that respect we are very careful. We do not compare ourselves with any other government because [words indistinct] comparisons. Just as we do not accept intervention, we do not accept the opinions of other governments.

[Question] Mr President, to conclude this interview which you have granted to the "Enfoques" program of Panama's TV-2, would you like to address some statement to the Panamanian people watching this program, people who are interested in hearing your message?

[Answer] We have always maintained very cordial relations with Panama. I am a friend of General Torrijos and of President Lakas, whom I have invited to Chile. I must say that this friendship has always been maintained on a good footing and with a good amount of harmony. This is why whenever we see the Panamanian people obtain some concession or achieve some victory either internationally or locally, we are pleased and happy. I would like you to convey the Chilean people's affection for the Panamanian people and our best wishes that they may continue their upward path in the social, economic and political areas.

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr President, for your statements to TV-2's" Enfoques" program. Thank you very much.

[Answer] Thank you.

LABOR FRONT ISSUES CALL TO REJECT ANTIREGIME ACTIVITIES

PY082059Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 May 78 PY

[Text] The Chilean labor front [frente laboral de Chile] called upon all Chilean workers to cease activities detrimental to the current regime, because the workers are always the ones who bear the brunt in case of an upheaval.

This call was made in view of recent labor incidents on 1 May. The communique issued by the Chilean labor front described these incidents as disruptive and antipatriotic and stated that they are against the legal and institutional framework of the country.

It further added that it has been clearly established that the government will not restrict union activities because it has acknowledged that the unions are the basic factor for a strong social organization of the Chilean people.

The communique states that only pure and depoliticized unionism will lead to a true recovery of the country. It also emphasizes that this pure unionism will be achieved without false prophets or union leaders manipulated from abroad.

LAST EXILE IN VENEZUELAN EMBASSY DEPARTS COUNTRY

PA101459Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] The last exile at the Venezuelan Embassy in Chile, Jorge Madariaga, a former army draftee, has left for Caracas, thus ending a situation which lasted 3 years and 4 months.

Madariaga, 22 years old, left in a Viasa airplane with a civilian passport after Chilean military justice lifted its charges of desertion from the Alta Montana School where Madariaga was on active military duty.

Madariaga entered the Venezuelan Embassy in January 1975, when the embassy was still hosting a large group of exiles who were militants of the government of socialist President Salvador Allende.

EL MELCURIO REPORTS UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

PY051614Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 5 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--According to the front page of the morning daily EL MERCURIO, three presidents will visit Chile this year. Panamanian President Demetrio Lakas will arrive here on 19 May, El Salvador President Arturo Molina Barraza [as heard] will arrive on 20 August, and Uruguayan President Aparicio Mendez will come on 18 September.

BRITISH BANKS BACK WORK ON $100-MILLION PORT

PY051406Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 5 May 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--A consortium of 17 British banks which operates in the United States under the name of Charter House has created an enterprise with a subscribed capital of $55 million which will be used to implement the construction of an industrial port in Concepcion.

This information was provided by Concepcion Mayor (Enrique Vaner Rysemberge), who explained that the overall cost of this port is approximately $100 million. He stated that the proposal was submitted to the presidency through the National Planning Office and the Interior Ministry. Should this be approved, the work will start in January 1979.

DETAILS OF NICARAGUAN ENVOY'S KIDNAPING, RELEASE REPORTED

PA101756Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] William Barquero Montiel, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Colombia, was kidnaped this morning by four alleged extremists disguised as clergymen who, as a result of an extensive security net deployed, decided to free him 2 hours later in the southwestern part of Bogota. The 51-year-old diplomat was taken from the embassy, which is located in the northern part of the city, by the four alleged extremists--two men and two women--and forced into his own vehicle which took off for an unknown destination.

Once the authorities learned of the incident, an extensive security net was set up. The kidnapers, upon arriving in Puerte Aranda near the military club, noticed the presence of several motorcycles with their lights on. Frightened, they decided to free the diplomat, who returned to the diplomatic mission on his own.

Extremists apparently belonging to the M-19 Movement left abundent subversive material at the diplomatic mission and wrote M-19 slogans on its walls. Initially, two rumors circulated about the incident. The kidnaping was said to be a spectacular action to generate publicity regarding the M-19 Movement. However, authorities later said that an extensive search operation ordered after the incident forced the kidnapers to free their victim near Puente Aranda in the southwestern part of this capital.

Ambassador's Comments

PA110320Y Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 2330 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Nicaraguan Ambassador William Barquero termed his brief abduction by a command of the clandestine 19 April Movement [M-19] a publicity stunt. The incident took place in Bogota today. In the diplomat's opinion, the M-19 sought to attract attention to the Sandinist National Liberation Front's activities in Nicaragua.

Later, during a news conference, Barquero reported on his kidnaping. The deed was committed by four men and two women--all heavily armed--who, wearing religious habits, forcefully dragged him out of the embassy located in northern Bogota. I feared for my life, the diplomat later admitted. I thought they were going to kill me. He added that they had forced him to [words indistinct] and had covered his eyes with black (?gauze). According to Barquero, he was released after a 90-minute ride through various parts of the city.

M-19 Claims Responsibility

PA101842Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1821 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Bogota, 10 May (EFE)--Colombia's clandestine revolutionary M-19 Movement at noon today claimed responsibility for the aborted kidnaping of William Barquero Montiel, age 51, the Nicaraguan ambassador in this capital. In a telephone call to the media, a member of the M-19 said that the abduction had been perpetrated to protest against the dictatorship of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza.

DISTURBANCES OVER TRANSPORTATION FARE HIKES CONTINUE

PA092009Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Tense calm reigned in the capital city today in the wake of violent street disturbances staged by agitators yesterday to protest the recent hike in urban transportation fares. Police and military detachments were closely guarding strategic parts of the city to prevent any further vandalism.

This morning, the police dispersed students who tried to stage further protest demonstrations in Cali and Bucaramanga. In Bogota, police reported having arrested 70 people who took part in yesterday's disturbances. Twelve people were arrested in Bucaramanga.

In the capital of Santander, three policemen were seriously injured during stone throwing incidents by high school students. In Cali, the rioters burned an official vehicle this morning, but the police foiled the agitators' plan to disrupt public order.

Violent street disturbances shook Cali today in the worst protests against the readjustment of urban transportation fares. This morning, groups of rioters burned camper OL5542, which belongs to the Territorial Credit Institute [INSCREDIAL] in Cali. The vehicle was destroyed by the fire, with damage estimated at 300,000 pesos. The INSCREDIAL driver, Eugenio [name indistinct], was not injured.

Several urban transportation service buses were pelted with stones near the Santa Librada High School. At this moment, agitators are obstructing automobile traffic near El Valle University. Car traffic through that area headed toward the Pan-American Highway to Popayan and Pasto has been blocked off, police confirmed at noon.

During the protest demonstrations over the urban transportation fare hike this morning, there were clashes between young agitators and the police, with several injuries. At least 20 people were arrested. Army and police patrols were on the alert in the downtown area of the city.

Police reported that two terrorists were arrested as they attempted to place homemade bombs in various parts of the city. The explosive devices were deactivated by F-2 [words indistinct].

Three policemen were injured a few minutes ago during violent stone throwing incidents near El Valle University. According to police headquarters, the injured policemen were taken to the police clinic.

Concerning the arrest of two terrorists, the police said that they have been identified as Jairo Bedoya and Octavio (Sasa) Sarmiento. They were turned over to 3d Brigade headquarters at noon.

BRIEFS

AGAVE PRODUCTION TO END--Bogota--Colombia will no longer produce agave and existing crops will be destroyed. The decision was reached by a congress of agave producers in San Vicente, Antioquia. The producers argue that imports of polypropylene have ruined the market for this fiber. They also protested because the government has authorized imports of synthetic fiber and said that they will not pay their debts to the Agrarian Fund to signify their protest. [Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 78 PA]

COLOMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

PA091731Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text] Colombian Defense Minister Gen Abraham Varon Valencia is paying an official visit to Ecuador. When he was welcomed at Mariscal Sucre Airport by his Ecuadorean counterpart, Andres Arrata, General Varon Valencia noted that the aim of his party is to strengthen the ties of friendship between the armed forces of the two countries. He also remarked that he is not going to sign any military convention in Ecuador.

In the afternoon the guest paid a courtesy visit to the defense and foreign ministers and the members of the Supreme Council of Government. When Vice Adm Alfredo Poveda, president of the Supreme Council of Government, received him at his office in the palace, Poveda said:

[begin Poveda recording] We are certain that this wonderful opportunity which you have given us will serve mainly to insure that the ties between our armed forces will be ever stronger and develop even further, because they have always been cordial. They have been beneficial. They have been successful. However, these demonstrations of good will undoubtedly increase and unite more definitively. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

In his reply, the Colombian minister noted the importance of the contacts and visits between authorities of the two countries:

[begin Varon Valencia recording] I am certain that, as you have just pointed out, our visit, these personal exchanges, this contact between the military men of two friendly neighboring countries such as Colombia and Ecuador, will have only magnificent results, deepening the wonderful relationship that we have always had. I do not even know if it would be possible to improve it, but it will certainly be maintained. Precisely through this exchange, these visits, we can serve our nations, which are dedicated to the common objective of seeking the welfare of our peoples. [end recording]

In the evening Ecuadorean Defense Minister Andres Arrata gave a dinner for the distinguished Colombian guest and decorated him with the Star of the Ecuadorean Armed Forces. When he made the award, Arrata highlighted the military man's merits and also stressed Ecuador's sincere and fraternal friendship toward Colombia and the progressive development of bilateral relations. Colombia and Ecuador, Arrata said, have had a full-fledged, uninterrupted friendly relationship. The mutual affection of their peoples has been the common denominator of this noble task, but we cannot stay at the present level. We must expand our relations in all other fields without delay, Arrata noted.

LABOR MINISTER CHIRIBOGA AGAIN OPPOSES PAY RAISES

PA091600Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text] Manta--Labor Minister Jorge Salvador Chiriboga reiterated that raising wages and salaries would be a very dangerous measure. If it were done, the minister said, it would have a bad effect on the country (?because) the situation is not appropriate for freezing wages and salaries in Ecuador. [sentence as heard]

Salvador Chiriboga noted that those who advocate raises are demagogues and has-beens who rejoice when they see hunger and thirst and [words indistinct] chaos with negative and very sad results.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT APPEALS ELECTORAL DECISION

PA101519Y Quito Radio Cadena Nacional Ecuatoriana in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito--The People's Democracy Movement this morning presented an appeal to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal demanding reconsideration of a previous resolution which denied the movement the right to register as a political party. The appeal calls for legal recognition of People's Democracy as a political party. The national leadership of the movement met last night under the chairmanship of Dr Julio Cesar Trujillo and decided to appeal the decision of the tribunal, trusting that the decision would be reviewed on the basis of the legal facts that have been presented and that the movement will be recognized.

MINISTER SAYS EXPORT PROBLEMS DARKEN ECONOMIC PICTURE

PA091610Y Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 May 78 pp 1, 10 PA

[Text] Galo Montano, industries, commerce and integration minister, has said that Ecuador's export picture this year is dim because of the drop in oil exports and the constant decline of coffee prices on the international market. He said the situation translates into declining fiscal revenues and will force the government to adopt measures to recover the ground lost by the country's economy.

The fiscal situation Minister Montano described yesterday during a news conference is certainly somber. He vividly described the crisis as follows: "When the lean years begin, one has to tighten one's belt." Montano said that this phrase means that austerity measures will have to be adopted, in addition to those already enacted to curb the importation of station wagons. He said that on the economic front the government is considering a series of alternatives which could at best help level off the country's trade balance, which poses a threat to the economy.

Regarding the problem of the drop in oil sales, the commerce minister said that the government is working to obtain long-term contracts in order to secure stable markets for its crude oil. He said the situation is difficult because there is an oil glut on Ecuador's market that makes it difficult for the country to sell its surplus production of 1 million barrels a day.

The coffee situation is similar. Its prices are on a downslide, the minister said. He noted that Colombia recently announced that it will have a record crop this year. Thus, the prospects for Ecuador's sales are not bright.

One of the measures the government has adopted to ease the situation, which is already affecting revenues, is to restrict imports. The first such action set a limit on the importation of station wagons which, according to Montano, had been affecting the fiscal picture. The minister said that the inflow of station wagons during 1977 was so high that they cost the country's economy the amount it had received from banana exports. In other words, he said, last year's banana sales only helped pay for imported station wagons.

In answer to a question, the minister said that no thought has been given yet to stopping automobile imports but that the government may find itself forced to cut them by one-half. At any rate, he said, the treasury also needs the revenues it receives from the imports.

Montano announced that the austerity measures to cut public spending and other measures expected to help level off the trade balance are in the hands of the economic team. He then reiterated that "when the lean years begin, one must tighten one's belt."

STROESSNER CONDEMNS MURDER OF ALDO MORO

PY1018411 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 10 May 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpts] President Alfredo Stroessner has strongly condemned the murder of Aldo Moro.

During an audience granted at Lopez Palace yesterday to the "Blas Garay" and "Ignacio A. Pane" delegations [Colorado Party youth organizations], the president stated: "There should not be any kind of dealing with or regard for communists. They answer with murder and then claim human rights for themselves." He also said that this is the result when there is negotiation with leftists.

PLR CALLS FOR AMNESTY, COMPLETE END TO STATE OF SIEGE

PY051438Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 4 May 78 p 12 PY

[Text] The Radical Liberal Party [PLR] issued a statement today signed by President Justo Pastor Benitez requesting the complete repeal of the state of siege and the granting of an unrestricted amnesty.

The declaration states that "the sudden repeal of the state of siege in the Central, Itapua and Alto Parana departments and its enforcement only in the Asuncion jurisdiction clearly shows that the government lacked, and still lacks, the legal basis for enforcing this exceptional measure for almost 24 years."

The document adds: "The validity of repealing the state of siege only in the interior, however, is questionable, precisely because the Asuncion area is the dynamic center of the country and because all responsible opposition sectors unanimously request the complete repeal of the state of siege with an unrestricted amnesty."

The statement adds: "The board of the PLR therefore appeals to the strongest patriots to struggle for a democracy which the present regime has denied or distorted for 24 years."

BRIEFS

CHINESE DELEGATION ARRIVES--A group of 35 Chinese businessmen headed by San Fa and Lee-chi Sin arrived last night. They plan to meet with the ministers of industry and commerce and of foreign relations as well as with other officials of those ministries and of the Finance Ministry and business organizations. The goal of the delegation is to establish new plans for trade. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Apr 78 p 9 PY]

BRITISH ECONOMIC MISSION--The members of the London trade and industry chamber delegation headed by Anatole Vassillissin, president of the chamber's Latin American section and member of the Humphreys and Glasgow Ltd administrative council, arrived here yesterday at noon to hold talks with officials and members of the private sector. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Apr 78 p 9 PY]

PRESIDENT SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

PA1104347 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0145 GMT 11 May 78 PA

["Text" of message sent by Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez to Italian President Giovanni Leone--date not given]

[Text] I am deeply distressed over the tragic death of the illustrious statesman Aldo Moro. In my name and in the name of the Peruvian people and government, I express our deepest sympathies to Your Excellency concerning this regrettable and irreparable loss which the Italian people and government are mourning and which affects all those nations that are jointly lamenting such a deplorable incident, the result of a censurable act of violence.

MORALES CONGRATULATES ARGENTINE PRESIDENT ON NEW TERM

PY051550Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 78 PY

[Text] President Francisco Morales Bermudez has sent a note of congratulations to Argentine President Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla. The congratulations mark the continuity of Videla's mandate, with the agreement of the government military junta of that country, at the head of the destiny of that sister nation. Morales Bermudez's message also refers to the always fraternal and close relations which unite our two countries and their governments.

CURRENCY DEVALUATED AS PART OF NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES

PA101636Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1544 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 May (AFP)--The Peruvian sol today suffered an 18-percent devaluation compared to the dollar, being set at 148 soles (sell) and 140 (buy) against 130, the previous quotation.

This measure, along with other economic steps taken by the government today, falls within the framework of a new economic-financial plan suggested by the International Monetary Fund to grant Peru loans.

It was noted in banking circles that this devaluation is the beginning of a process that may take the national currency to a quotation of 200 soles to the dollar. In effect, it was stressed, the certified dollar that is issued to exporters has reached a record parity of 220 soles.

The dollar had been officially quoted at 130 soles for buy and sell since 10 October 1977, when the government let the sol fluctuate freely, submitting it to the law of supply and demand. Then, the dollar was negotiated at 80.88 soles in accordance with the policy of minidevaluations established by the military regime since 20 September 1976, when the exchange rate was 65.17 to the dollar.

Tax Increases Announced

PA101802Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1640 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 May (AFP)--The Peruvian Government today raised taxes in seven areas of the economy in order to increase state resources and to confront the nation's economic and financial emergency.

The tax increases, published today in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, constitute, according to informed sources, the first part of an economic package recommended by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] to help Peru alleviate its external debt. This debt, which officially amounts to over $4.2 billion, should be to a great extent amortized over the next 2 years at an average of approximately $1 billion annually.

It was revealed here that the IMF has asked the military government to reduce the heavy budget deficit by increasing its resources through taxation and the elimination of subsidies. It is expected that today's laws, as well as the limited devaluation (18 percent), will complete the initial condition, and possibly after the 4 June constituent elections the regulations eliminating subsidies will be announced. These will mainly affect wheat and its byproducts (bread and noodles), milk, fats and fertilizers, and perhaps oil and gasoline.

The new taxes imposed today are:

1. A 10-percent ad valorem tax on imports, effective until the end of the year, except for foodstuffs, fertilizers, insecticides, oil, medicines and personaleffects of diplomats.

2. An increase to 17.5 percent of the tax on exports of traditional products, except zinc sold by the medium mining enterprise.

3. An increase to 36 percent of the tax on the price of horserace betting, sports and lottery tickets, and an increase to 20 percent of the tax on corresponding prizes.

4. The tax for traveling abroad for a maximum of 5 days is fixed at 3,000 soles ($20), with an additional 300 soles daily for each additional 24 hours outside the country.

5. The sales tax on goods and services is also increased, in varying percentages, with a minimum of 22 percent.

6. Vehicle license plate taxes are doubled.

7. Increased income tax for public and private employees.

ECONOMY MINISTER REPORTS AGREEMENT WITH IMF

PY051403Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 78 PY

[Text] In Mexico, Peru has already won the right to a firm agreement with the IMF. This will allow the country to obtain additional resources from private international banks to pay the obligations of the external debt. Gen Alcibiades Saenz Barsallo, economy and finance minister, will meet this month with the managing director of the IMF for this purpose, as was agreed during the meeting they had recently in Mexico. Regarding this matter, Saenz Barsallo indicated that the new meeting will take place once the figures and terms of the standby agreement, which will determine the disbursement to be made by international banks, are set.

Saenz Barsallo participated, together with the economy ministers of developing countries, in the IMF meeting held in Mexico which studied the principal monetary problems at the world level. The minister, on his return yesterday from Mexico, indicated that Peru will not report to the Paris club for a request to underwrite the external debt [words indistinct] after several rounds of negotiations.

FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA CONDEMNS DEATH OF ALDO MORO

PY091807Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 May 78 PY

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira has stated that Aldo Moro's death is a treacherous attack on Italian democracy. Minister Rovira was interviewed today at noon by El Espectador and Radio Sport, and he stated that in his opinion any honest and democratic person in the world must express the strongest and most vigorous condemnation of this action. He stated: As Uruguayans who have experienced times of terror similar to those the Italian people are experiencing, we can well understand what these techniques of international terrirism imply.

AUTHORITIES DISMANTLE ANOTHER SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION

PY110317Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0040 GMT 11 May 78 PY

[Text] Montevideo, 10 May--The joint police and military forces announced tonight that they have dismantled a subversive movement of socialist origin which was unknown until now. The officials reported, over the national radio and television network, that nine leaders of this movement, the Association of Socialist Militants [Agrupacion de Militantes Socialistas--AMS], have been arrested and brought before a military court.

Ever since the defeat of the main Uruguayan guerrilla organization, the Montoneros, in 1972, the armed forces and the police have periodically announced the elimination of many other minor subversive groups.

The police and military report released tonight states that the AMS was being organized over the last few years and that its leaders resided in Buenos Aires, where they made contacts with the Argentine Montoneros organization. According to the official report, the new socialist group was dismantled as a result of testimony given by members of another terrorist movement dismantled recently, the Groups for Unified Action.

REQUESTS FOR AMNESTY SUBMITTED TO COURT

PY101844Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Text] The request for freedom presented by (?272) prisoners making use of the amnesty law has been submitted to the trial court. Added to these are the requests presented by those on probation, which are being carried out at the request of the interested party. This was officially reported by an Interior Ministry communique.

POLICE COMMISSIONS REGULATED BY NEW DECREE

PY101924Y Montevideo Cadena de Oro del Interior in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 May 78 PY

[Communique No 11 issued by Uruguayan police in Montevideo on 10 May]

[Text] Since several news media reported this morning that the executive branch had decided yesterday to dissolve the commissions for cooperation with the police, Montevideo police headquarters reports that the corresponding decree was misinterpreted, since it does not dissolve these commissions but provides for their regulation and formation.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT TO ARRIVE 27 MAY FOR 3-DAY VISIT

PA102334Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes is scheduled to arrive in Venezula on 27 May for a 3-day visit. It is believed that as a result of his visit an agreement will be signed for the entrance of qualified Portuguese laborers into Venezuela. The Portuguese president will be accompanied by (?various) ministers. It has been reported that Portugal has great interest in signing an agreement for the export of human resources to Venezuela due to the surplus of labor and the high unemployment rate in Portugal.

DEMOCRATIC ACTION CANDIDATE DISCUSSES AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

PA051748Y Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 29 Apr 78 pp 1, 12 PA

[Excerpts] The development of the country is unattainable unless we first achieve the prosperity and consolidation of rural areas, Democratic Action [AD] presidential candidate Luis Pinerua Ordaz said yesterday morning in a speech during the 12th regular national assembly of the National Federation of Agricultural Producers (FEDEAGRO) held in Central Park.

For over 1 hour Luis Pinerua Ordaz outlined the ideas and projects which make up his electoral program in the area of agriculture.

At the beginning of his speech, Pinerua Ordaz said that the present government has made a systematic and serious effort not only to broaden Venezuela's agricultural horizon, but also to achieve a substantial increase in production and productivity. To this end, it has provided the necessary assistance and has developed projects and programs designed to give the farmer an opportunity to work and to be successful in his effort to exploit the land.

The agricultural policy pursued by President Carlos Andres Perez will be continued by my government, he said. Agriculture will continue to receive the same priority and preferential treatment. There will be a continuation of the essential aspects of that policy, which guarantee not only loans and technical assistance, but also fair prices and an adequate system for the distribution of farm products. These are policies which the present government pursues.

Later in the speech, Pinerua Ordaz said that there can be no agricultural activity if agricultural products do not bring good prices. One cannot expect, much less hope, that anyone would devote himself to agricultural activity if he is not going to receive a fair price for his agricultural products, he said.

The candidate said that the pricing policy in the agricultural as well as in the industrial sectors must basically consider the cost factor. He said that he considers farm subsidies to be necessary but only where they are strictly indispensable and only as a temporary measure, until production levels are reached that can meet market demands.

He insisted that a substantial increase in production and productivity is urgently needed to provide abundant consumer goods. In the area of prices, the candidate said, it is my opinion that the producer must receive sufficient profits not only to compensate for his labor and invested capital, but also to permit reinvestment. Pinerua Ordaz later discussed agricultural credit policy. He commented on the legal provision which obliges commercial banks to allocate not less than 20 percent of their available loans to agricultural financing.

He said that he agrees with the agricultural business sector that a study should be done on how to allocate the above-mentioned 20 percent. Pinerua Ordaz added that he is already committed to this intitiative.

The AD candidate also mentioned the need to solve the problem of irrigation and the need to use underground irrigation systems, which dramatically increase productivity as has been demonstrated on the Guanipa tableland.

Commenting on the need to train our human resources, the candidate said that--the lack of such training has prevented the agrarian reform program from being more successful.

He announced that during his administration he plans to establish agricultural high schools. He said that it is necessary to regionalize education in order to stop the exodus of peasant youths to the cities.

Regarding obligatory military service, Pinerua Ordaz said that the present recruiting system is anachronistic and unfair since under existing law a youth who does not register because of ignorance is classified as a draft evader.

We will maintain the system of registration for military service but registration will be automatic. This is possible in Venezuela if we make use of the personal identity cedula, he said.

The candidate promised to give special support and protection to research activities. He noted that he would have no reservations with regard to the use of foreign technology if it should be necessary.

Pinerua Ordaz expressed an interest in agroindustrial integration.

Regarding industries which process the same agricultural raw material in the same area, he said: I conceive of these enterprises as having agricultural producers as their main participants, with the government being restricted to the role of planner.

Luis Pinerua Ordaz offered to create agricultural insurance to cover the risks of farming. In this regard, he invited FEDEAGRO to join his experts in devising the most appropirate system.

In the final portion of his speech, the candidate referred to security in rural areas. "I will be extremely zealous and severe," he said, "in my governmental activities. It will be my duty to adopt every measure to guarantee peace in the rural areas."

On this subject, he said that approval of the bill to coordinate police services is inevitable.

GENERAL TORRIJOS SENDS MESSAGE TO ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER

PA110429Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Panama City, 10 May (LATIN)--Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos repudiated here today the murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro in a letter sent to Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

After describing Moro's murder as unjustified, Torrijos told Andreotti: "We Panamanians repudiate all acts of violence which take place when all formulas for peaceful dialog have not been previously exhausted.

"This crime is even more hateful because the victim was a humanitarian statesman who promoted peace in his country and the world.

"We express our deepest sympathies to your people and government."

TORRIJOS TO MEET WITH NEW COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT 21 MAY

PA110137Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos will visit Costa Rica on 21 May. This will be the first meeting between Torrijos and new Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio. The names of the persons who will accompany Torrijos to Costa Rica or the subjects he will discuss with the new Costa Rican president have not been released. However, it was announced this afternoon that the Panamanian chief of government will take advantage of his visit to Costa Rica to sign a technical assistance agreement. The agreement will be signed at the Tropical Agronomy Research and Training Center in Turrialba. This OAS institution will provide technical assistance to the Agricultural Research Institute of Panama, the institute's director, Carmen Damaris Checa, reported.

GOVERNMENT REQUESTS OAS OBSERVERS FOR 6 AUGUST ELECTIONS

PA101208Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2130 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 9 May (ACAN-EFE)--Panama has officially requested the Organization of American States to send observers to the 6 August elections, Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez-Revilla announced in this capital.

"We believe that there should be no doubts in regard to the honesty of the Panamanian electoral process," the minister commented.

He said that the Panamanian process to elect the 505 representatives to the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives was fair and democratic.

The preelectoral process in Panama ended on 30 April with the registration of some 1,200 precandidates.

Out of an estimated 780,000 voters over 18 years of age, 404,000 participated as "supporters" during the first stage of the process. The minister said that this was a meaningful figure.

The Panamanian electoral process will conclude on 6 August with the election of 505 representatives. These, in turn, will elect the nation's president for the next 6 years.

PRESIDENT LAKAS POSTPONES VISIT TO CHILE

PA100136Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian President Demetrio Basilio Lakas told Televisora Nacional this afternoon that he has been forced to postpone his official visit to Santiago, Chile, in view of the proximity of President Jimmy Carter's visit to Panama scheduled for 16 and 17 June. President Lakas said that, therefore, his visit to Chile has been postponed until after Carter's visit to Panama. However, he did not disclose the exact date of the trip to Chile. It had originally been scheduled to begin on 19 May and was in response to an invitiation from Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet. President Lakas' trip to Chile was to have consisted of a 3-day official visit and then a 4-day official [as heard] visit, which would have ended on 27 May.

COLON DEMONSTRATORS PORTEST AGAINST PRESIDENT LAKAS

PA101828Y Panama City Ciruito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] A group of about 200 demonstrators roamed the streets of Colon this morning during a protest demonstration against his excellency the president of the republic. The demonstrators, however, disbanded in front of the Washington Hotel and then held a rally on a side street to air their grievances. The basic reasons for the protest are unknown.

Reports received in Panama City say that there were two wounded in Colon, while official reports in Colon indicate that there were no additional wounded persons because those reported injured were cut or hurt during the vandalism yesterday.

This afternoon at 1500 there will be a demonstration of support for the president of the republic which will begin at the Jose Guardia Vega high school. On the other hand, the ranking officials who are accompanying the president and vice president in Colon have received about 250 telegrams from the people of Colon supporting the work of the president to restore the economy and health of the Province of Colon.

PLANNING MINISTRY REPORTS PRIVATE INVESTMENT BOOM

PA091947Y Panama City Circuito RPC in Spanish 1720 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy announced yesterday that there had been a boom in private investment, both in planned projects and projects already underway, which amount to 80.8 million balboas. The ministry said that the boom was more evident in the manufacturing sector, a representative of which said that there is no doubt that the 1976 incentives laws have contributed greatly to the situation, especially the changes made to the labor code which have resulted in greater production.

The projects now being executed include the oil transfer terminal, a glass container factory and the expansion of the Compania Panamena de Alimentos and the Tabacalera Nacional.

QUINTERO ASKS CARTER NOT TO ATTEND EXCHANGE CEREMONY

PA060132Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 May 78 PA

[Text of letter dated 2 May 1978 sent by former Panama University Law School Dean Cesar Quintero to President Carter--read by announcer]

[Text] Honorable Mr Jimmy Carter, President of the United States of America. Washington, D.C.

Mr President:

The press has reported that you intend to come to Panama on 16 June to sign the exchange protocol and to exchange the documents ratifying the 1977 treaties on the Panama Canal and its so-called neutrality. As you are aware, the exchange of ratification documents of any bilateral treaty, although indispensable for the completion of the treaty, is only a routine diplomatic action which is not normally carried out by chiefs of state but by designated plenipotentiaries. Consequently, your announced attendance and direct participation in this ceremony tends to give it an unusual solemnity which under the circumstances would be inappropriate, inconvenient and dangerous.

Those of us who opposed the treaties--which we did as soon as we read their texts after they were signed in Washington--could not help but feel depressed beyond words when we learned of your appearance at the upcoming ceremony, as it would be interpreted as an imperious gesture to politically strengthen the treaties which were so controversial in our two countries and which we consider detrimental to the economic integrity and independence of the Republic of Panama.

For those who initially accepted the treaties but repudiate them today because of the abusive amendments, conditions, reservations and other modifications introduced by the U.S. Senate, your presence would be offensive because it would appear as a defiant reiteration of the Senate's proclamations.

Even the Panamanian supporters of the treaties, who expected substantial and immediate material benefits for the country, would feel irritated and frustrated--although they will not say it--by that fraudalent ceremony over which you will preside because, according to a famous U.S. Senate reservation, "the exchange of the ratification documents will not be effective before 31 March 1979 and the treaties will not be effective before 1 October 1979."

Why then this determination to hold a premature and pompous ceremony with no legal value? Why, in any case, is the exchange of documents not effected on the date previously set by the Senate, that is, 31 March 1979? The ceremony will be held now because there is a desire to obligate Panama as soon as possible, through the exchange of documents, which is the final and definitive requirement. Thus, the U.S. Congress will be able to develop and implement these treaties to its liking, through laws which will undoubtedly contain new amendments and interpretations and will probably eliminate some of the advantages that the Panamanian negotiators claim to have obtained in these anomalous and unequal pacts.

Moreover, a legal battle has been unleashed in Panama regarding the validity of the amendments, conditions, reservations, understandings and other modifications introduced to the canal treaties in a unilateral manner by the U.S. Senate. Many jurists have maintained and still maintain that those new clauses imposed by one of the contracting parties must be subjected--according to our constitution--to an authentic national plebiscite. In contrast, the treaty supporters argue that such a constitutional requirement is not convenient or necessary now.

Consequently, your official attendance at the ceremony to exchange these texts, so amended, could be seen as decisive support for those who oppose the holding of a plebiscite and could therefore be interpreted as the first significant intervention by your government in the domestic affairs of the Panamanian nation.

Mr President, I am only a simple law professor. I do not belong or adhere to any political party. I admire the great legal, cultural, social and scientific institutions of the United States. I only object to the policy of that powerful nation toward Latin America and particularly toward Panama. Regarding the present treaties, I have fought against them faithfully, as I consider them to be opposed to the best interests of the Panamanian and American people. I am not a leader of anything or anyone but I am certain that the great majority of the Panamanian people share the opinions that I have permitted myself to convey to you, and because of this I beg you not to come to Panama to preside over such a depressing ceremony. I do not believe that I or my fellow countrymen are naive. We understand that under the present historical circumstances nobody could or can prevent the implementation of these treaties. We also know that the treaties will be the source of deplorable tension and serious conflicts in the not too distant future.

Therefore, since the exchange of the texts will constitute a chronological irregularity of unique characteristics, we ask you to at least refrain from giving the ceremony an incongrous solemnity and to make it a sober event carried out, as is customary, by ad hoc plenipotentiaries. In this manner the event would be held in the usual manner, avoiding a celebration and a false festivity which would only hide, underneath the applause and the liquor, the tears of a disillusioned people.

Sincerely yours, Cesar Quintero

Exiles Support Quintero Letter

PA100445Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 2337 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Text of letter addressed to U.S. President Carter read by unidentified speaker at meeting of Panamanian exiles sponsored by Women's Patriotic Union at arts and sciences auditorium of University of Panama in Panama City--live]

[Text] Mr Jimmy Carter, President of the United States

Washington D.C.

We, the signatories of this letter, are Panamanians of diverse political tendencies who identify with the ideal of a dignified and sovereign fatherland.

We state our solidarity with the contents of the letter which university Professor Cesar Quintero sent to you and we are asking you not to come to Panama in June because your visit would be untimely and unwanted.

Respectfully yours,

[Unidentified speaker] Let all of us sign it. What about it? We are all in solidarity with Dr Quintero's letter.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO DISCUSSES FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

PA1012100Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0345 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 9 May (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rica will not move toward the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba, President Rodrigo Carazo Odio reiterated this afternoon. The President told the press that a large majority of Costa Ricans do not want those relations and that for this reason ties with Cuba will be maintained at their current stage, limited to commercial and consular relations. "This decision," he added, "was made a long time ago and is not being influenced by the actions of other governments in this respect."

At his first news conference after taking office yesterday, Carazo said that he endorses the Soviet Union's position in favor of disarmament and against sophisticated weapons so long as that position is authentic and responds to a genuine desire to achieve world peace.

Further on, the president noted that his government hopes to maintain a close relationship and sincere friendship with Mexico. Carazo refused to comment on past charges that Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party aided Luis A. Monge, his rival in last February's elections. According to the president, if there was such help, it did not do much good. He added that there is no point in delving into situations that lead nowhere.

Finally, he told a journalist that Costa Rica and Mexico have traditionally maintained excellent relations and that he hopes to keep them that way during his 4 years in office.

Carazo also said that Costa Rican solidarity with Panama's struggle to recover its soverignty will not change under the new government. President Carazo told newsmen that the support given Panama for the recovery of its legitimate rights over the canal stems from profound historic and legal reasons and that the satisfaction he derived from the signing and approval of the new treaties fuels his interest in seeing Panama effectively exercise its sovereignty over the zone.

The government of President Daniel Oduber, who concluded his term in office on Monday, firmly supported the Panamanian cause right from the start. There has been some speculation regarding the possibility of a somewhat cooler relationship between Panama and Costa Rica than there was during Oduber's administration, but according to Carazo, the change of government will in no way alter the friendship and cooperation between the two peoples.

CARAZO OPPOSED TO CHANGE OF PRESIDENCY TERM

PA1102200Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 2305 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Yesterday Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio openly voiced his opposition to the idea of the reelection of the president or the extension of a president's constitutional term in office from 4 to 6 years. Asked if when he said during his inaugural speech that time is too short he was hinting at the need to extend the presidential term or at reelection, Carazo immediately denied this and explained that what he had meant was that time is too short to satisfy the people's needs.

The president took advantage of this opportunity to voice his total opposition to the idea of a presidential reelection, an idea which, he said, he has always fought.

RADIO PRAISES CARAZO'S STAND ON TUNA AGREEMENT

PA101523Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 May 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Carazo Odio, president of the republic, and his cabinet have begun to consider the statement which will be sent to the U.S. Government on Costa Rica's decision to withdraw from the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission--CIAT. The issue, discussed by the previous government following the seizure of two vessels--one from the United States and another from Canada--by order of former Minister Charpentier, demanded a decisive attitude on the part of the Carazo administration, an attitude which we support.

The issue of the 200-mile limit and Costa Rica's sovereignty in matters concerning the sea has been discussed for the last 30 years. A decree issued by the junta of the second republic, during the administration of Mr Figueres, established that Costa Rican sovereignty over fishing extended to a distance of 200 miles as of 1948. Since then, Costa Rica, within the commission on tropical tuna fishing, has maintained its concept of sovereignty, which was finally incorporated into the constitution.

Principles of sovereignty cannot be discussed by international bodies. This is a topic requiring local decisions, and the United States has no right to make any statements about Costa Rica's principles concerning sovereignty.

The U.S. Government has told our government that it does not claim jurisdiction over highly migratory species of fish within the 200-mile fishing reservation and that it does not recognize the presumptions of other governments to exercise jurisdiction over the said area. But this is the most important thing: By virtue of its sovereignty, Costa Rica exercises jurisdiction over this area, not the United States; therefore, we consider this to constitute foreign intervention.

The United States viewpoint is that, according to international reservation agreements, tuna vessels have the legal right to fish within the 200-mile limit and are not committed to obtain a license to do so in the area covered by CIAT. The White House is thus misinterpreting the Costa Rican decision to withdraw from CIAT precisely for these reasons and for another, quite different one, which is the U.S. presumption that there should be no seizure of vessels while Costa Rica is still a member of CIAT. The U.S. Government told our government that it must observe caution in applying its laws to vessels fishing according to reservations and provisions approved by all CIAT member nations, including Costa Rica. This U.S. attitude of threatening Costa Rica with suggestions to use caution is dangerous. That is why President Carazo's decision, voiced yesterday in his inauguration speech, to defend our national sovereignty and to preserve our ichthyological resources has greatly pleased us.

The Carazo administration has adopted an attitude of defending our country's fishing activities. It is the same position adopted by former Minister Charpentier some weeks ago. Unfortunately, Minister Gonzalo Facio on that occasion brought up the legal aspect of our international agreements. Costa Rica, however, had announced its decision to withdraw from CIAT since that time, an action which has been repeatedly supported by Carazo. Thus, Costa Rica is firmly united on this matter.

EL SALVADOR

ROMERO SENDS MESSAGE ON MORO ASSASSINATION

PA110238Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2305 GMT 10 May 78 PA

["Text" of 9 May message sent by Salvadoran President Carlos Humberto Romero to Italian President Giovanni Leone--read by announcer; SERCANO Network]

[Text] San Salvador, 9 May 1978

His Excellency Giovanni Leone, president of Italy

Deeply distressed by the assassination of Mr Aldo Moro, please allow me to communicate to the Italian people and government through Your Honorable Person the Salvadoran people's indignation and condolences concerning this abominable crime against mankind. Despite the pain it represents for his grieving family, I pray to God that the painful sacrifice of this illustrious Italian politician may move the world's conscience toward a more effective struggle against the unmerciful forces of international subversion.

In solidarity with Your Excellency's grief, I remain cordially yours.

[signed] Carlos Humberto Romero, president of El Salvador

GUATEMALA

TIES WITH COSTA RICA TO REMAIN CORDIAL

PA101612Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes has said that there will be no change in Guatemala's relations with the Costa Rican Government and people because of the change in administration that took place the day before yesterday. The foreign minister said relations will remain friendly, as is the case with other Central American countries. We must join efforts, he added, to improve Central American social and economic integration, which has been delayed lately by the conflict between El Salvador and Honduras.

RADIO, TV STATIONS GUARDED TO PREVENT SABOTAGE

PA102030Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan radio and television stations are under heavy police protection today to prevent sabotage by subversive groups. According to the Government Ministry (interior), "confidential" reports indicate the possibility that groups opposed to the government plan to destroy the broadcast sites or use them to broadcast their proclamations. The protection of the media was assigned to the national police "commando six" squadrons (similar to SWAT on U.S. television).

LUCAS TO ESTABLISH TRADE TIES WITH SOCIALIST CAMP

PA101858Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1755 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 May (ACAN-EFE)--Guatemalan President-elect Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia yesterday reiterated his determination to promote "a wide opening in international relations, including those with the socialist camp," while in power.

"If this is convenient for Guatemala, our international circle of friends may be expanded, but never reduced," he said. Lucas will assume the Guatemalan presidency on 1 July.

Previously, Lucas had announced his intention to resume diplomatic relations with Panama, which were broken by the present government of President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud within the international controversy with Great Britain over Belize's sovereignty.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA AGAIN WARNS VENEZUELA ABOUT MEDDLING

PA101420Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] President Anastasio Somoza said today that, if Venezuela continues to question Nicaragua's domestic policies, it should be viewed as an attempt to meddle in strictly Nicaraguan affairs. During an exclusive ASSOCIATED PRESS interview, Somoza said that Venezuela's main problem concerns its domestic policy because, in spite of its large oil revenue, it has huge financial problems. Therefore, they have chosen to talk about Nicaragua to meet their internal political needs, President Somoza remarked.

The interview took place as the president did his morning exercises outside his bunker offices located in southwestern Managua. The exercises were prescribed to President Somoza by his doctors after the heart attack he suffered in mid-1977.

The president said that he has given instructions to Nicaraguan Ambassador in Washington Dr Guillermo Sevilla-Sacasa to protect the good name of Nicaragua from the attacks of Venezuelan Ambassador Jose Maria Machin, who, on behalf of President Carlos Andres Perez, has denounced alleged human rights violations in Nicaragua. Nicaragua has its doors open for the OAS to visit our country, but it is up to us to decide when they should come, Somoza stated.

Regarding newspaper reports on a large monetary drain in Nicaragua, President Somoza said he has not noticed any large monetary drain.

SOMOZA DENIES UNPOPULARITY, CLAIMS STABILITY

LD101047Y Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 7 May 78 p 2 LD

[Angel Luis de la Calle interview in Managua with Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza: "I Will Remain in Power until 1981"--date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: General, how are things in Nicaragua?

Answer: Nicaragua has been experiencing some politically difficult times, with demonstrations of dissent organized by certain groups both through politicos and through the use of violence. However, the government's moderation and the maintenance of public freedoms have allowed these moments to pass. We are now moving toward a real stability thanks to the responsible attitude of the Nicaraguan people.

Question: Mr President, your political adversaries say that the feeling of the majority of Nicaraguans is that they want you to resign as president.

Answer: Well, my opinion is that the adversaries of my Nationalist Liberal Party have always said that. When the truth was tested through elections, however, the Liberal Party has always won by 70 percent. The allegation is invalid.

Question: At the 1 May rally in Republic Square, I heard you say something which confused me, Mr President. You told those gathered there that the wealthy and the communists are mainly to blame for Nicaragua's ills. Since you are a very wealthy person, are you not accusing yourself? Are you not acknowledging your own blame?

Answer: Academically speaking, if you like, yes, I am prepared to do what I have to do to contribute to the Nicaraguan people's well-being. But what happened in Nicaragua is that the wealthy people decided to take advantage of my ill health and the hostility shown toward me by certain foreign governments to overthrow me, and they organized an employers strike with the intention of overthrowing my government. Then, when they failed, the communists adopted the path of violence, aggression, guerrilla warfare and finally open subversion. This is why I described the recent events as an attack by capital and by the communists.

Question: Mr President, you mentioned the hostility of foreign governments. Do you believe that those countries are in some way helping those seeking your removal from power?

Answer: Since they are interfering in Nicaragua's internal affairs and since I am the legally formed government legally recognized by other countries, I do believe that they are interfering in Nicaragua's internal politics.

Question: And what about the United States? Has the traditional friendship between the United States and Nicaragua changed in any way?

Answer: The Nicaraguan people's attitude toward the American people has not changed. However, the new Washington administration is trying to impose on the rest of the world certain conditions of its scale of values, and we are part of the rest of the world. But...these are differences which we are trying to settle.

Question: General, for some weeks you have been making continual appeals to the opposition. Are you prepared to negotiate even with representatives of the Sandinist Front?

Answer: I have said this before: If the members of the front put down their weapons and want to talk, then they have the right, as Nicaraguans, to talk with the public authorities and with my party.

Question: Will you immediately legalize all political parties without exception?

Answer: Well, that seems rather out of date, since my party has already proposed a series of constitutional reforms which will open the way for all ideologies to enroll and act as parties.

Question: Mr President, the church seems to have alined with the opposition.

Answer: In fact the church has a duty to care for all its parishioners. When they condemn violence they are not only condemning the government side; also, the opposition makes the church's words appear like a protection for itself.

Question: General, what about your son's rapid rise up the military ladder?

Answer: A degree of resentment may be caused by the fact that Major Somoza has graduated from the army schools with the rank of a well-qualified officer. However, his success has been no greater than his technical abilities permit. He has earned his rank.

Question: The Nicaraguans and public opinion have given a great deal of attention to the murder of the journalist and opponent of yours Pedro Joaquin Chamorro.

Answer: The Nicaraguan people and international opinion know who killed Pedro Joaquin, who hired the killers and who paid them the sum agreed in the contract for doing it. And it is in fact someone in no way connected with the government and not even a Nicaraguan citizen.

Question: General, how many political prisoners are there in Nicaragua?

Answer: The only prisoners in Nicaragua are those tried and sentenced by the courts. There are no political prisoners. If anyone is being held, it is within the context of trials being held by the Nicaraguan courts.

Question: What are your immediate political plans?

Answer: Right now, to remove from Nicaragua's political structure the obstacles which have provided excuses for violence, for instance, by ratifying the constitutional reform which will allow political parties of any ideology to register; then to lay the foundations so that the 1981 elections can be held with the greatest impartiality; and finally to tell the Nicaraguan people that I am not going to run for reelection or remain in the government after the end of my mandate in 1981.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER MEETS WITH SOMOZA

PA1012220Y Panama Cith ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 10 May 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 May (ACAN-EFE)--Hilgard Muller, former South African foreign minister and current minister without portfolio, met with Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza at noon today. The visit by the high-ranking South African official falls within the realms of courtesy and rapprochement, a rapprochement which he will extend to the other Central American countries after having attended the swearing in of new Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio.

After an upcoming meeting and luncheon with acting Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Harry Bodan Shields, the visiting South African minister will host a farewell reception at the Managua Intercontinental Hotel.

Muller is accompanied by Archibald G. Dunn, South African ambassador to Nicaragua and El Salvador, with residence in El Salvador.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CONGOLESE DELEGATION'S ACTIVITIES

Official Talks Begin

FL1010044Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Text] Official talks between the Republic of Cuba and the People's Republic of the Congo began yesterday morning at the Revolution Palace in Havana. Presiding over this meeting for the Cuban side was Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, party first secretary and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers; and for the Congolese side Brig Gen Joachim Yhombi-Opango, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party Military Committee, president of the People's Republic of the Congo and chairman of his country's Council of Ministers. Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the party, first vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers; and other Politburo members and government and party leaders were with Fidel.

At the talks Commander in Chief Fidel Castro told the Congolese side of the Cuban party's, people's and government's satisfaction with the visit by the delegation from that fraternal country, stating that this will contribute to strengthening the ties of friendship and understanding between the two nations and peoples. For his part, Chairman Yhombi-Opango expressed his thanks for the demonstrations of the people's affection and warmth received on his arrival to the capital and stated his happiness at being in Cuba.

Visit To CIP Headquarters

FL1011121Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Text] (Marcel Truanga), member of the Union of Congolese Socialist Youth national executive and that organization's foreign relations secretary, yesterday visited the permanent commission of the International Preparatory Committee [CIP] of the 11th World Youth and Students Festival. On his arrival he was met by Luis Felipe Vazquez and (Vicente Masengo), the CIP representatives of Cuba and the Congo, respectively, and other CIP members.

Earlier, (Truanga), who is part of the Congolese delegation visiting our country, met with Union of Young Communists--UJC--leaders, who briefed him on the work done by the Cuban youth and the people in general in preparation for a successful 11th festival.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL1011135Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Text] A cooperation program between the Congolese and Cuban foreign ministries has been signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries, Theophile Obenga and Isidoro Malmierca respectively. Malmierca pointed out the importance of the program and stated that it will contribute to strengthening our relationship and help in the struggle against colonialism and neocolonialism. For his part, Theophile Obenga stated that the signed document will strengthen the friendship between our two peoples.

Visit to FAR Academy, Housing Project

FL102018Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Text] Brig Gen Joachim Yhombi-Opango, chief of state and government of the People's Republic of the Congo, has visited the Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--Academy accompanied by Army Gen Raul Castro, PCC second secretary and FAR minister. The Congolese delegation also was accompanied by PCC Politburo and Central Committee member Juan Almeida.

The Congolese leader was received upon arrival at the academy by its director, Col Juan B. Pujols Sanchez, who gave him a comprehensive briefing and showed him the installations of the military studies school. Pujols Sanchez also gave him a replica of the campaign portfolio of Gen Maximo Gomez.

Yhombi-Opango also met with a group of Congolese youths who are taking military courses in Cuba. He talked with them and was interested in the training and activities in which they are involved.

The People's Republic of the Congo chief of state and his entourage, accompanied by Juan Almeida, also visited the Alamar housing project where they were received by Jaime Crombet, member of the PCC Central Committee and party first secretary in Havana City. Before a mockup of this urban housing project, project director Aurora Rodriguez explained the characteristics of microbrigades and their work. The visitors then toured the Alamar project's clothing factory where Yhombi-Opango signed the guest book urging all the workers to continue advancing firmly toward the future. Throughout the tour of Alamar, the Congolese delegation was greeted by hundreds of students, workers and people in general who had gathered on both sides of the streets.

Yhombi-Opango, Castro Tour School

FL110055Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 78 FL

[Text] Brig Gen Joachim Yhombi-Opango, chairman of the Congolese Workers Party Military Committee and chief of state and government of the People's Republic of the Congo, this afternoon visited the People's Republic of the Congo rural preuniversity school located in Artemisa Municipality. He was accompanied by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Students and workers at the school gave a warm welcome to the high-level delegation headed by Yhombi-Opango.

The visitors, accompanied by Fidel, visited the various school installations. At the end of the visit, the commander in chief and the distinguished visitor addressed the students gathered in the central part of the school, which was inaugurated 3 years ago by the late Congolese President Marien Ngouabi.

[begin Castro recording] If no one is going to say something, I am not going to say anything either. I had not planned to make a speech here. We came for a visit and to see how you were and how the school is, and how culture, sports, studies and work are going here. And do you want me to tell you what my impression of the school is? [students chant "yes"] What do you think my impression of the school should be? [students chant "good"] It is a good impression. [applause, cheers]

[Yhombi-Opango in French with sentence-by-sentence Spanish translation] As you know, our visit to your school represents a symbol for us, a symbol of the militant solidarity between the Congo and Cuba, a symbol of the unity of thoughts that exists between the two peoples, a symbol of the revolutionary commitment that characterizes our two peoples. That is why, on behalf of Congolese youth, I wish to convey to you here the revolutionary and militant greeting which that youth wanted to express to you.

[Castro] As a result of this visit, it is a duty of all the students and workers of this school to make the greatest effort so that it can be said that this school has a good promotion rate and so that at the end of the school year you can say with satisfaction that, in honor of this delegation and this visit, you have made a maximum effort and the school has had a maximum promotion. That is the only thing I want to say to you. Thank you. [applause, indistinct chanting--end videotape]

MENGISTU ADDRESSES STUDENTS DEPARTING FOR CUBA

FL101953Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1932 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian chief of state Mengistu Haile Mariam has bade farewell in Addis Ababa to more than 1,200 students who will be studying in Cuba on scholarships awarded by the Cuban government. The group consists of students between 9 and 17 years old, most of them children of Ethiopian militia and army combatants killed in the eastern and northern fronts, it was announced.

The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] and other officials of that government organ explained to the young students their future tasks at a ceremony held at the Talek militia camp, located about 30 km from Addis Ababa. Mengistu told the students that one of the two schools reserved for them in Cuba has been named Gara Marda in honor of the Cuban and Ethiopian combatants who repelled the Somali invasion of Ethiopia.

At the ceremony of farewell to the more than 1,200 young Ethiopian students who will be studying in Cuba, Mengisto told them of his impression of the schools reserved for them in the Isle of Pines. The PMAC chairman urged the students to complete their present and higher studies. He told them that upon their return they will be an immense contribution toward consolidation of a vanguard party of the Ethiopian revolutions.

The Cuban, Mozambican and Angolan youths who study in the Isle of Pines, Mengistu told them, obtain excellent results in their studies and productive work, and you should do the same.

RADIO SUPPORTS PRICE'S VIEW ON BELIZE ISSUE

PA110317Y Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 10 May 78 PA

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] In an interview published in the May issue of the Magazine PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO, Belizean Premier George Price said that neither Great Britain nor anyone else has the right to cede Belizean territory. We are not willing to turn a single inch of Belize over to Guatemala, he said.

While the Guatemalan tyrannical regime maintains its interventionist threats against Belize and Great Britain seeks negotiations to find a definite solution to this embarrassing situation in which justice is on the side of the Belizeans, Premier Price said that his government has the support of many states and international organizations in its efforts to obtain independence.

It is only right that Belize has this support. Belize meets all the requirements to be a nation. Its only demand is that it not be deprived of what legitimately belongs to is: sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity.

The Belizean leader ruled out any possibility of signing an agreement with the Guatemalan regime reached through negotiations in view of the fact that the negotiations established with Great Britain entered a crisis when the Guatemalan Government demanded part of Belize's territory as the price for ending the dispute.

Belize, a territory of 22,000 square km located in northern Central America, shares borders with Mexico and Guatemala and faces the Caribbean Sea. At present it is a British colony.

The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry has stated the government's official position; it claims all the territory of Belize but is willing to find feasible formulas.

The Belizean chief of government listed three points regarding the territory's situation: that it achieve a secure independence with guarantees in view of the aggressiveness of the Guatemalan regime; that its independence be recognized by the Latin American countries; and that it wants to work and live in peace.

In view of the threats expressed by the Guatemalan defense minister to the effect that the Guatemalan Army is ready, willing and able, Belizean Premier Price said that his government plans to internationalize this issue by gaining the support of governments and international organizations. As is known, the Belizean Government has international support in the defense of its cause. It has already received the support of the nonalined movement, the United Nations and governments which are members of the British Commonwealth. At the regional level, it is important to note the support expressed by the English-speaking Caribbean countries, that is, Guyana, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Grenada. Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Panama, Surinam and Venezuela have also expressed support. Last year, when the issue of Belizean self-determination was debated in the UN General Assembly, the Guatemalan regime's demand received only the support of the delegations from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica. Thirteen delegations, including that from the United States, abstained. An overwhelming majority of 126 nations expressed international solidarity with Belize.

The statement of Belizean Premier Price to the PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO is categoric, forceful and worthy of the deepest solidarity. When Guatemala first made its demand a century ago, it was the British who carried out the negotiations and signed treaties. We, said George Price, were not consulted, and since then the issue has been discussed between Great Britain and Guatemala.

ARNALDO MILIAN CHAIRS HARVEST MEETING IN GUANTANAMO

FL091029Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 May 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Arnaldo Milian Castro today chaired an analysis meeting on the status of the sugarcane harvest in Guantanamo Province.

Sector chiefs and directors of sugarcane enterprises in each of the six industries of the zone reported on the measures undertaken to conclude the sugarcane harvest period successfully and fulfill the 14 tasks in the field of agriculture to guarantee the 1979 and 1980 harvests. They also discussed successes achieved in this sugarcane harvest, among them the increase in productivity by the use of 3,000 fewer men in the harvest than in 1977 and the 23 brigades which have each cut more than 1 million arrobas, a figure which almost triples the number of that year.

The Politburo member stressed the importance of having the sugarcane harvest completed ahead of schedule so that all the other tasks needed for the 1979 and 1980 sugarcane harvest can be accomplished. Along with the successes which have been obtained in increasing the quantity of sugarcane cut per man, there is the need to complete the weeding program. Milian added that once the sugarcane harvest has been completed these tasks should be pushed to the maximum. Guantanamo has the conditions to carry out the sugarcane weeding program within the period programmed.

ROCA ATTENDS MEETING ON CHILDREN, YOUTH CODE

FL102153Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 10 May 78 FL

[Test] Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the National People's Government Assembly, today asserted that the children and youth code will be an inspiration for all the world's progressive youths in their struggles and demands. Blas was participating in a meeting of the committee for servicing youths and children. Changes, additions and deletions to the code were examined and approved at the meeting.

The draft code was submitted for discussion by the people, and 5,424,503 citizens participated in that discussion. At the recommendation of Blas Roca and unanimously approved by the aforementioned committee, the code will contain an introduction which asserts the principles of equality that presently prevail for all Cubans as contained in the constitution of the republic and the family code.

At the meeting Blas Roca insisted on the importance of the principles of equality, including the equality of children regardless of the marital status of their parents, for the development of new generations. The draft children and youth code also has been enhanced with the inclusion of two new articles calling for special attention to children with physical and psychic limitations. The members of the committee for servicing youths and children unanimously agreed to include an article which emphasizes the relevant role of educators in training the new generation. The draft code will soon be delivered to the people's government presidency for its discussion, approval and enactment as law.

PEREZ HERRERO CHAIRS SOCIAL SCIENCES GRADUATION

FL110107Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 May 78 FL

[Text] PCC Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero has made the closing remarks at the graduation ceremony for the directed course of licentiate in social sciences. The ceremony was held at the auditorium of the PCC Nico Lopez national school. Upon congratulating the 68 graduates, the Secretariat member emphasized that the required level of education is necessary to direct and assume specific responsibilities. Gen Calixto Garcia Martinez, speaking on behalf of the new licentiates, noted that knowledge helps party members be more capable and qualifies them to perform with quality the tasks which the party may assign them. PCC Central Committee members Jesus Montane Oropesa, Fabio Grobart and Secundino also presided over the ceremony.

GUYANA

DPRK CULTURAL TEAM ENDS VISIT, CLOSES EXHIBITION

FL0205104Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 4 May 78 p 3 FL

[Text] The members of the cultural delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) left the country yesterday after staging a one-week exhibition in the country.

Leader of the delegation, Mr. Han Bong-chan, said they were quite satisfied with the response they had to the exhibition.

He expressed satisfaction with the assistance by all agencies, government and non-government, on the staging of the exhibition.

He said that from the comments made by visitors to the exhibition it was clear to him that there was keen interest.

Mr. Han Bong-chan also added a word of praise for the recent visit to the DPRK by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham. He described this as a significant event and will help to cement closer the relations between the two countries.

JAMAICA

COORE RESIGNS AS GOVERNMENT MINISTER, PNP CHAIRMAN

FL0417140Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 30 Apr 78 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Mr. David Coore, former minister of finance, resigned yesterday as a minister of the government and simultaneously stepped down as chairman of the People's National Party [PNP]. He also ceased to be deputy prime minister.

Mr Coore told the GLEANER that he had resigned from the cabinet, but not as member of Parliament for Western St. Andrew. However, he described as "fairly correct" a report that he intended to resign the seat as soon as the party found a candidate to replace him. He has not resigned as a member of the People's National Party.

Mr Coore was removed by the prime minister on March 1 as minister of finance. He went on two months leave immediately afterwards. The period ends this weekend.

His resignation makes him the fourth minister to step down from office since the present government was returned to power in 1976.

BRIEFS

JAMAICAN OFFICIAL IN HOSPITAL--The acting minister of education, the Hon. A. G. R. Byfield, was admitted to the university hospital on Sunday suffering from cerebral haemorrhage, which developed while he was attendind the special meeting of the national executive council of the PNP [People's National Party] in Kingston. Hospital sources last night refused to give any information on Mr. Byfield's condition, but usually well-informed sources said that his condition was fair and that he was not unconscious. [Text] [Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Apr 78 p 1 FL]

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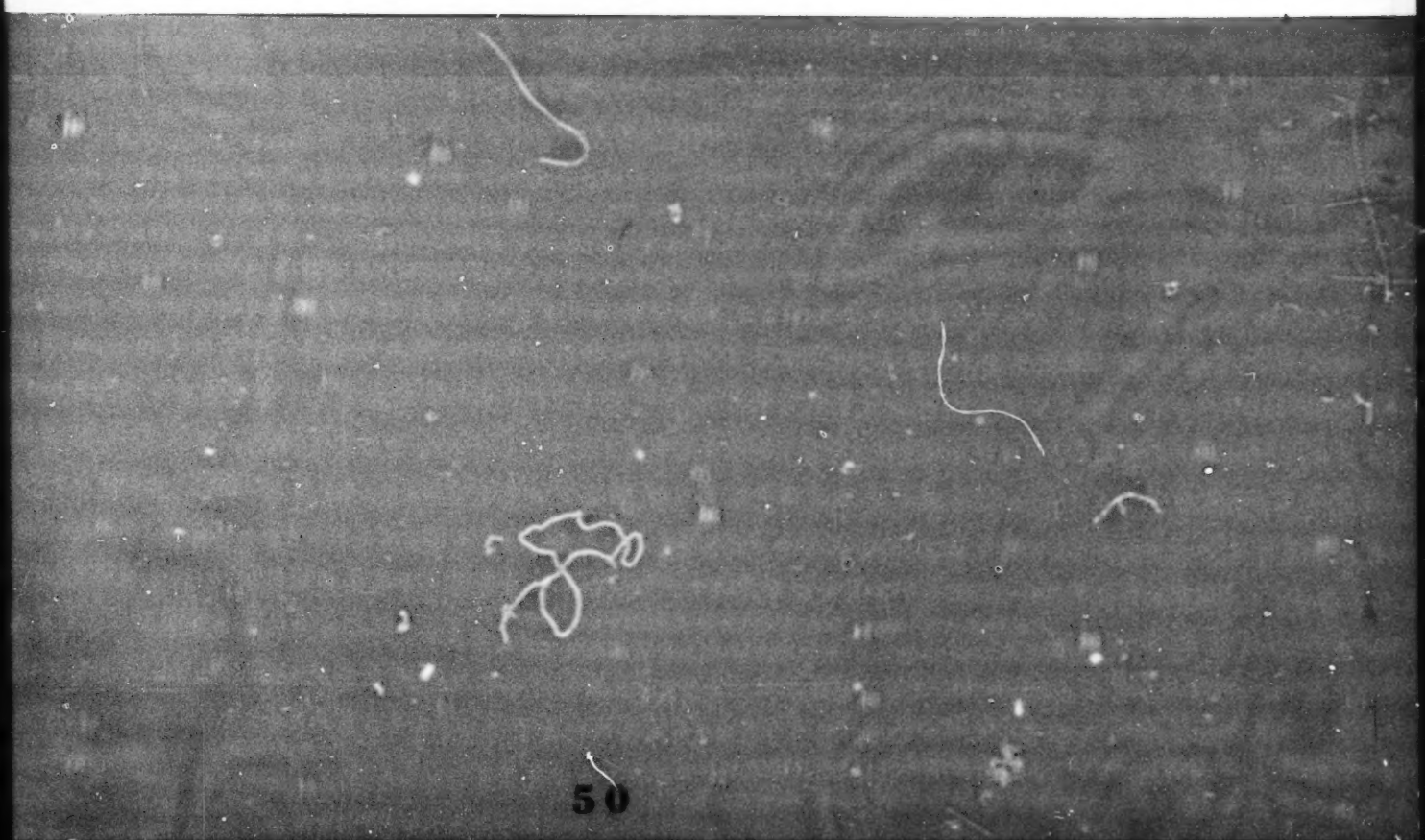
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